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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
27 April 1975

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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Indochina
(As of 0900 EDST)
No. 26

VIETNAM

1. In a move which apparently helped bring a quick end to the political confusion in Saigon, North Vietnamese forces last night fired rockets into Saigon and opened a new round of large scale attacks along a wide front east of the capital. The fighting is continuing today, with several Communist divisions already involved in the assaults and others likely to join them.

2. On the heels of this sharp escalation of Communist military pressure, the South Vietnamese National Assembly this morning voted to confer full powers on General "Big" Minh. At an earlier meeting, President Huong had told senior government leaders that he was prepared to resign but was not willing to propose a successor. Minh is expected to announce his new government before the day is out.

3. Southeast of Saigon, the North Vietnamese 325th Division supported by tanks and artillery overran Phuoc Le, the capital of Phuoc Tuy Province, and the Communists are now pushing toward Vung Tau. The North Vietnamese 6th Division may also be involved in these attacks.

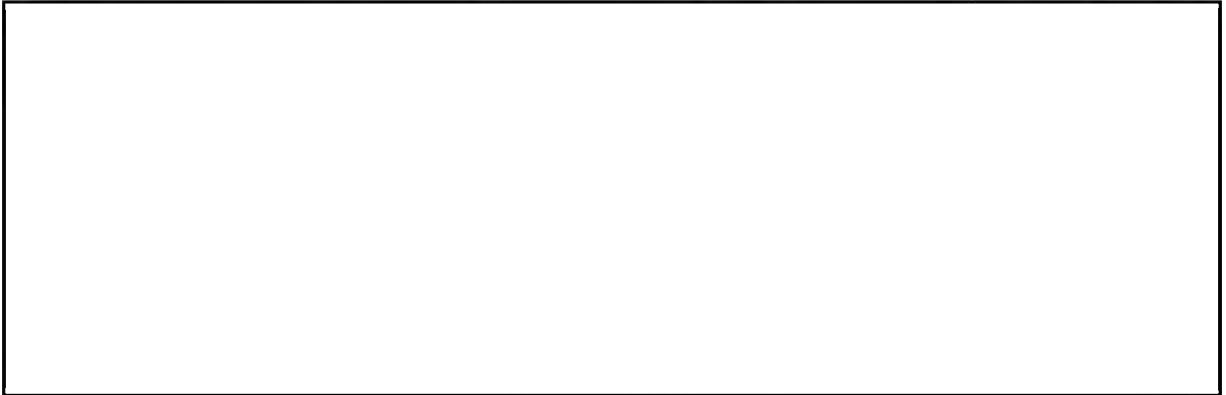
3. To the north, the newly arrived North Vietnamese 304th Division overpowered government troops defending the district town of Long Thanh in Bien Hoa Province. Elements of the division, together with tanks, have driven north on Route 15 and are now attacking the large supply depot at Long Binh. Communist tanks reportedly are within a few hundred yards of the base.

4. North Vietnamese forces also are attacking at Bien Hoa. The North Vietnamese 341st Division is pushing west along Route 1, and a Communist tank column and probably elements of the North Vietnamese 7th Division have crossed the Dong Nai River to assault Bien Hoa and its nearby airbase from the north.

5. The South Vietnamese troops appear to be fighting well thus far, but their situation is hopeless. Most government positions east of the Saigon River could fall to the Communists within the next day or so.

5. The fighting close to Bien Hoa has already led to some rioting and looting by South Vietnamese troops, and a chaotic situation like that at Da Nang could lead to an unraveling within a matter of hours.

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